



Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, July 10, 2015

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Iowa Valley Community College District
Continuing Education Center (IVCE)
3702 South Center Street
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christopher Duree, Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD); Murray Fenn, Green Hills AEA; Rachel Geilenfeld, Association of Business and Industry; Dana Lampe, Linn-Mar Community School District; DT Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Randy Mead, Des Moines Area Community College; Kathy Nacos-Burds, Northeast Iowa Community College; Julie Rosin, Des Moines Central Campus; Ken Sagar, AFL-CIO; Elliott Smith, Iowa Business Council; Mike Wilkinson (for Edward Wallace), Iowa Workforce Development; and Jeffrey Weld, University of Northern Iowa

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Bunting, Cedar Rapids; Kelli Diemer; Department of Education (DE); Del Hoover, DE; Pradeep Kotamraju, DE; David Palmer, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Cindy Schulte, IVCCD; Rachel Scott, Iowa College Student Aid Commission; Eric St Clair, DE; Pat Thieben, DE; Jeremy Varner, DE; Amy Vybiral, DE; and Phil Wise, DE

AGENDA ITEM: Introduction and Plan for the Day

Expected Outcome	Leads	Follow-up
	Pradeep Kotamraju	

Notes: Chancellor Duree provided the members with a brief overview of the Iowa Valley Community College District. He talked about how through collaboration and the braiding of funds with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Economic Development Authority, and Iowa Workforce Development, the community college district was able to expand its advanced manufacturing and health sciences programs. Chancellor Duree stated that the work of the task force requires a similar effort to implement high quality career and technical education (CTE) throughout all of Iowa's school districts.

After a review of the day, Kotamraju discussed how the day was to proceed. The main purpose of the day was to come to an agreement regarding the proposed recommendations using a previously shared document with task force members.

AGENDA ITEM: How Can Iowa Code and Rule Help? An Overview

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Familiarize the task force about the linkage between the proposed recommendations and the current Iowa Code.	Phil Wise	The code group will begin working on translating the recommendations to policy.

Notes: Phil Wise discussed moving the proposed task force recommendations to actual policy. He quickly pointed out that much of the authority already exists within Iowa Code and those sections of code could be the springboard for recommending policy changes. In general, though, it would be easier to change administrative code than Iowa Code, but would need to ensure proper authority is granted in Iowa Code to implement such a change through administrative code.

AGENDA ITEM: Visualizing the Recommendations: A Career Pathway System as the Centerpiece of High Quality Secondary CTE

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Each working group was asked to develop at least two recommendations and provide accompanying rationale/reasoning.	Pradeep Kotamraju	

Notes: Kotamraju reviewed the recommendations in their totality by visualizing them using an integrated graphic that tied the following overarching goal:

Goal: A comprehensive career pathway system will afford every student the opportunity to explore and to pursue career and college learning opportunities through alignment of career guidance practices, secondary and postsecondary 21st century CTE curriculum, and work-based learning experiences.

The above goal was connected to the five policy recommendations (discussed individually on pages 3-6) through the graphic, and was outlined in a document previously shared with task force members. The purpose was to move towards gauging the initial comfort level with the proposed recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendations Walkthrough: Initial Comfort Level

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Gauging initial comfort level proposed recommendations taken as whole.	Task Force Members	

Notes: The task force noted that certain constituent groups, e.g. academic teachers, needed to be taken into consideration. On the other hand, it was emphasized the importance of avoiding silos – referencing certain subject areas may hinder this goal. For the recommendations to work as a whole, everyone has to come to the table and stop working piecemeal. The broader intent of the proposed recommendations is to change the entire CTE experience for students. It was also noted that by moving towards a “CTE silo,” it makes the chance of much being accomplished more pessimistic without significant, long-term, adequate support and funding. Ultimately, to spark true, meaningful reform which gets school districts to begin to view CTE differently, and to do so, would require striving to meet current Department of Education initiatives (literacy and TLC). There are opportunities and connections to be made.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #1: Thoughtful High Quality Career Guidance

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #1	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #1:

Promote career and college readiness through thoughtful career guidance and purposeful academic and technical planning practices.

Questions and clarifications were raised on how different the current career guidance system in Iowa from the one proposed in the recommendation. Several were highlighted, including making career guidance a process that creates a student success plan that goes beyond an eighth-grade plan. Also, the proposed team approach that complements the electronic tool was further discussed with suggestions to include certain segments of the teacher and administrative cadre, as well as other stakeholders, both secondary and postsecondary sectors.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #2: High-Quality Integrated CTE Curriculum

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #2	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #2:

Provide a high-quality, integrated CTE curriculum comprised of secondary exploratory and transitory coursework to prepare students for higher-level, specialized academic and technical training.

The discussion first centered on the use of the word “curriculum.” As part of the overall “curriculum” discussion, clarification is needed between using additional words such as “integrated” and “frameworks.” It was suggested not to use the word “curriculum” as its use might be problematic at the legislature. Broader words such as “program” are far more appealing politically. Other points of discussion included:

- the highlighting of the distinction between career education and career and technical education;
- whether the course work has specific beginning and end points, or viewing it as a continuum where exposure of CTE begins at middle school levels; and
- the difference between exploratory and foundational courses.

As part of the overall “curriculum” discussion (or whatever appropriate wording is chosen), the current system involving *Service Areas* needs to be looked at again and discuss possibly moving towards a *Career Clusters* approach.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #3: Spectrum of High Quality Work-Based Learning

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #3	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #3:

Afford students the opportunity to access a spectrum of high-quality work-based learning experiences through a coherent delivery system which streamlines and leverages existing initiatives.

The discussion around this recommendation focused on: (a) why there was a need to increase the funding for intermediary networks; and (b) the need for a commission or a task force to address more globally the issue of work-based learning in Iowa.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #4: High Quality CTE Instruction

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #4	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #4:

Expand the pool of qualified career and technical instructors by incenting and promoting the teaching profession in these areas, expand opportunities to obtain academic and technical training in licensure areas, and examine preservice preparation and licensure practices to remove barriers for horizontal and vertical career advancement for individuals within the profession.

The recommendation was the result of an examination of current existing paths into the CTE teaching profession and the need to expand opportunities and reduce barriers. Additionally, the recommendation also considered the current state of professional development opportunities to stay current with CTE. It was suggested that an explicit reference be made to Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) when discussing this recommendation. Additionally, the proposed professional development must include core content teachers to promote a better understanding of CTE.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #5: Delivering High Quality CTE through Regional Centers

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #5	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #5:

Provide for increased and equitable access to high-quality CTE through support of a statewide system of regional centers.

The discussion began by a reiteration of the basic fact that what was being proposed in the recommendation is something that is already being done. The main intent of the recommendation addresses the problem of inequitable access to high-quality CTE programming. There was discussion about the need to indicate that regional centers can be more than just a community college facility. Community colleges can align curricula, offer concurrent enrollment, etc. without having to own the facilities. However, no matter what variant of the regional center is proposed at a local level, there is an obligation to be purposeful in planning for an equitable roll-out of these facilities.

Secondary CTE must play a critical role and collaborate with a variety of stakeholders, including community colleges. While at this stage there is no need as of yet to be prescriptive, the recommendation should be seen as an opportunity and not as a mandate.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation #6: Regional Boards as a Management Tool for High Quality Secondary CTE

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Review of Recommendation #6	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force worked through each of the recommendations separately.

Recommendation #6a:

Provide the State Board of Education the Planning Authority, where it is necessary and needed, to establish rules and regulations, including the use of new and repurposed resources, in order to put into place a statewide system of high quality CTE.

Recommendation #6b:

Organize regional planning authorities that would have the responsibility for managing the regional centers, including decisions regarding career guidance, curricular structures, and work-based learning experiences, all leading to students learning within, and across career pathways that reflect in-demand occupations and student interest.

A key point that all that was discussed by the task force is to reiterate the basic premise that the State Board has considerable authority to implement a number of these recommendations and could broadly be viewed as given the State Board broader authority to implement standards required for putting in place high quality secondary CTE. Additionally, a suggestion was made to view the above recommendation as two separate ones, as one recommendation does not necessarily require nor build off of the other.

AGENDA ITEM: Recommendations as a Whole: Comfort Level Still OK?

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
Gauging comfort level after discussing each recommendation.	Task Force Members	Staff will include suggested revisions in an updated document.

Notes: The task force was once again asked about their comfort level with the recommendations as a whole. They agreed that these recommendations should move forward and be further refined based on the input and suggestions provided under each recommendation.

AGENDA ITEM: Wrap Up and Next Steps

Expected Outcome	Lead	Follow-up
	Task Force Members	Planning for listening sessions.

Notes: A short discussion ensued regarding the process by which the draft set of recommendations would be made known to the constituents and stakeholders. It was agreed to by the task force members that the task force DE staff will develop a plan for listening sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.